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Access to High Quality Early Learning for Washington's Young Children

Presentation to the
Early Learning Council

Human Services Policy Center,
Evans School of Public Affairs,
University of Washington

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Definitions of Care Types

Three broad categories:

Center-based care

- pre-schools and other center-based arrangements, both licensed and unlicensed

Family child care

- non-relative care in the caregiver's home, generally licensed

Family, friend, and neighbor care

- care by a grandparent, other relative, friend, or neighbor; rates attached to paid FFNs, supports can be for all FFNs.

Head Start — included, but modeled separately

Framing & Modeling Issues

- 1) Time Frame
- 2) Compensation
- 3) Family, Friends and Neighbor Care
- 4) Scope of Services

Framing Issues: Time Frame

What is the time frame for implementation for the lower and higher cost options?

Five years, ten years, fifteen years, or twenty years?

- The QRIS draft specifies two dates for target implementation—2006 and 2010. NAEYC Accreditation standards will be phased in from 2006 to 2020.

Framing Issues: Compensation

What salary level would you like to tie to the highly resourced and moderately resourced cost options?

Would you like the high cost option tied to Washington elementary teacher compensation at the BA level?

Would you like the lower cost option tied to human services compensation levels for the BA level?

Are there different salaries you would prefer to use?

Framing Issues: Family, Friends and Neighbors

What should the rates and supports be for FFN caregivers?

At what rates should FFN providers receiving public subsidies be subsidized?

- For example, some states specify compensation at equivalent rates to high quality FCC less 25% for business expenses.

Framing Issues: Scope of Services

What is the scope of services that should be covered in the early learning system?

Should we include costs of social and health services in the modeling?

- For example – nurses, public health, resource for children with disabilities.

Should we include the cost of supports for children in parental care only? What kind of parental support?

Small Group Decision Discussions

GROUP A

Professional Development, Staff:Child Ratios,
Training and Education

GROUP B

Social and Health Services, Regulation, FFN,
Compensation, Access to Parents & Providers